

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /075 W

----- 034608

O R 281225Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9977

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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EMBASSY ALSO FOR CAPETOWN

FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LI, RH, SF, WA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON ARMED STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF AFRICAN
PEOPLES

1. PRESIDENT TOLBERT APPEARS TO HAVE GONE FARTHER THAN PREVIOUSLY
ON COMMITTING LIBERIA TO THE ARMED STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF PEOPLES
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. OCCASION WAS APRIL 27 PRESENTATION-OF-CREDENTIALS
CEREMONY FOR CANADIAN AMBASSADOR REECE. TOLBERT SAID, QTE WE INSIST
THAT THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE MUST BE FREE; AND THE
ABOMINABLE PRACTICE OF APRTHEID AND THE ANACHRONISTIC POLITICS OF
MINORITY RULE MUST BE FOREVER ELIMINATED FROM THE REGION OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA.

IF THIS CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, WE WILL HAPPILY
DO EVERYTHING THAT WE CAN TO ACHIEVE THIS. IF THIS CANNOT BE
OBTAINED THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS AND WE MUST RECOURSE TO OTHER
ACTION, WE WILL WILLINGLY PROCEED TO JOIN OUR FORCES WITH OTHERS IN
BRINGING THIS ABOUT SPEEDILY UNQTE.

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2. COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT VARIED. ELBC, LIBERIAN RADIO, IDENTIFIED LANGUAGE QUOTED ABOVE AS SIGNIFICANT, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, OBSERVING THAT IT REPRESENTS ANY CHANGE IN POLICY. LIBERIAN STAR CLEARLY SAW NO CHANGE; IT QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT BUT OMITTED MENTION OF LANGUAGE QUOTED IN PARA 1, ABOVE.

3. IN PAST LIBERIA HAS SUPPORTED VARIOUS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WITH CASH, AND PRESIDENT HAS SAID AS MUCH. YESTERDAY'S FORMULATION APPARENTLY REFLECTS A WILLINGNESS ON TOLBERT'S PART TO EFFECT A MORE DIRECT INVOLVEMENT THAN HERETOFORE. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, WHEN TOLBERT SAYS "WE WILL...JOIN OUR FORCES," HE IS NOT TALKING ABOUT SENDING TROOPS. SEEMINLY HE MEANS THAT LIBERIA WOULD NO LONGER MERELY BE SENDING CHECKS, BUT HENCEFORTH WOULD ALSO BE CONCERTING ON STRATEGY WITH BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS SUCH AS MUZAREWA, BUTHELEZI, NAJOMO, KAUMDA, NYERERE, ET AL. CARTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, APARTHEID, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONROV02938
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760161-0215
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760414/aaaaaljk.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT TOLBERT ON ARMED STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION OF AFRICAN PEOPLES
TAGS: PFOR, LI, RH, SF, WA, XJ, (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R)
To: KINSHASA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006